(b) The actual production of Saleable Steel in SAIL (excluding subsidiaries) during the first quarter 1997-98 was 2.006 million tonnes.

(c) Stabilisation of the modernisation facilities in Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plants, and operational and equipment problem in the Steel Melting Shop - I and Hot Strip Mill of Bokaro Steel Plant are the major reasons for actual production lagging behind the target, of 2.221 million tonnes, fixed for the first quarter of the year.

[Translation]

Theft in Trains

2523. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints about thefts and increasing inconvenience to passengers travelling on reservation in second class sleeper coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check this menace ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order in trains is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The cases of thefts are reported to, registered and investigated by the Govt. Railway Police (GRP). As and when this Ministry receives complaints in this regard, they are sent to the concerned GRP authorities for taking necessary action.

(c) Railway Administration on their part also maintain close and constant coordination with State Government concerned and render necessary assistance to them to contain crime on railways.

[English]

Water Supply Schemes in Rajasthan

2524. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages and hamlets affected by acute shortage of potable drinking water in Rajasthan, particularly in Western Areas and the factors held responsible therefor;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to solve this problem;

(c) the quantum of funds allocated to the State in the current year for the same;

(d) whether Government of Rajasthan has sought the help of Japanes Government to fund the drinking water projects of the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of the drinking water projects of the State pending with the Centre for clearance and the time by which these are likely to be cleared; and

(g) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter of raising ground water level in the desert districts of the State by constructing water harvesting structures there ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The number of not covered habitations facing acute shortage of potable drinking water in Rajasthan was 12,000 as on 1.4. 1997. However, this is subject to further verification by the State Government. The main reasons for emergence of NC habitations are :

Sources going permanently defunct, expiry of the design, life of the system, poor operation and maintenance, setting-up of new habitations and habitations not having any public source of safe drinking water supply.

(b) Schemes/projects for safe drinking water supply are taken up under the Minimum Needs Programme, the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and under the Basic Minimum Services. The State Government has prepared an action plan for coverage of Not Covered and Partially Covered habitations within the availability of annual allocations.

(c) An allocation of Rs. 87.32 crore under the normal ARWSP and Rs. 31.31 crore for the Desert Development Programme Areas has been made to the State Government of Rajasthan during 1997-98.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The State Government has requested for assistance from the Government of Japan for Jaipur Water Supply and Sanitation Project and Water Supply and Sanitation schemes for five major towns.

(f) No other drinking water project of the State Government of Rajasthan is pending with the Central Government.

(g) The State Government has initiated measures for implementing artificial recharge project in critical areas including Desert districts to check the depletion of water level, under Agricultural Development Project with financial assistance from International Development Association, World Bank.